



MEN OF STEEL

STEEL

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BY L. SIMONSON,
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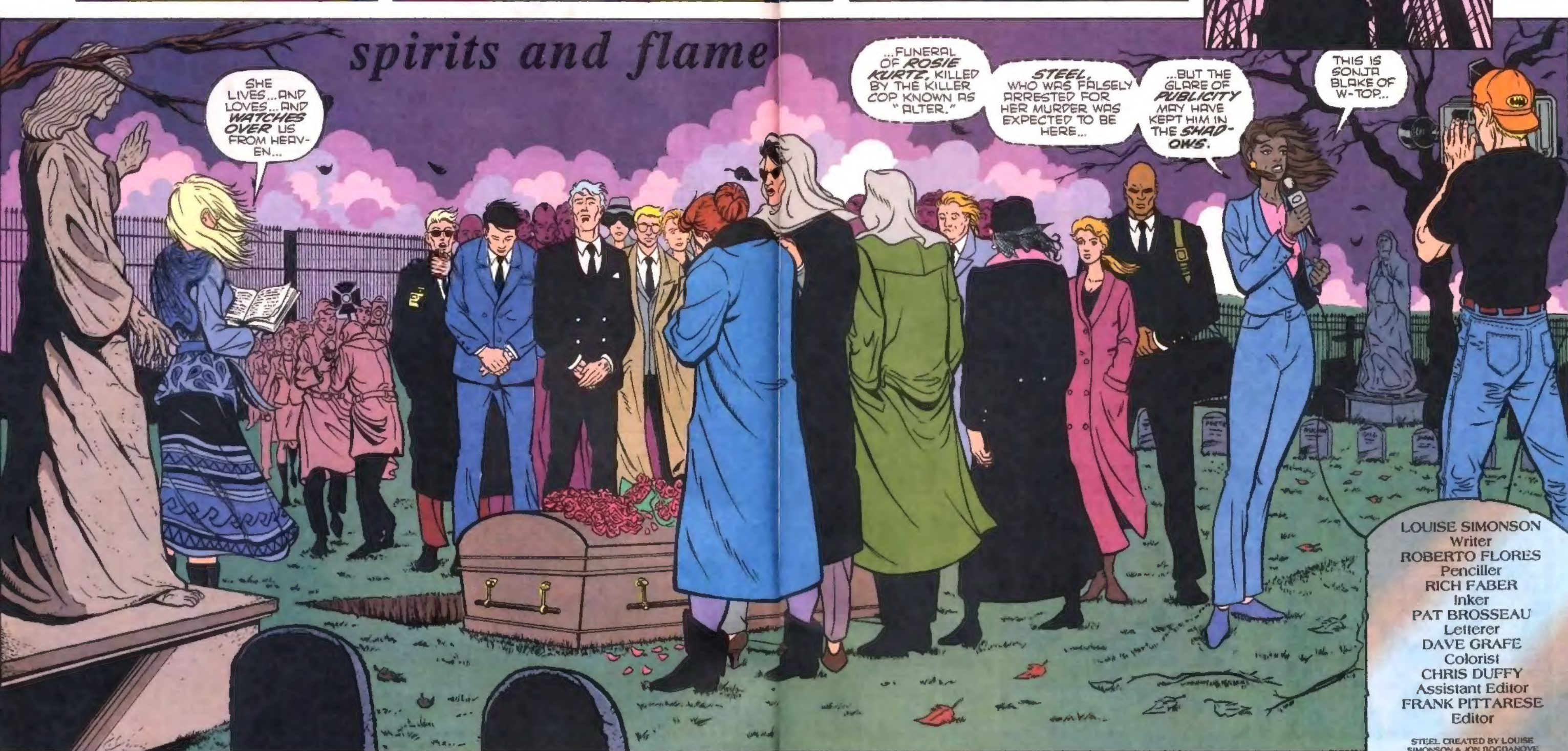


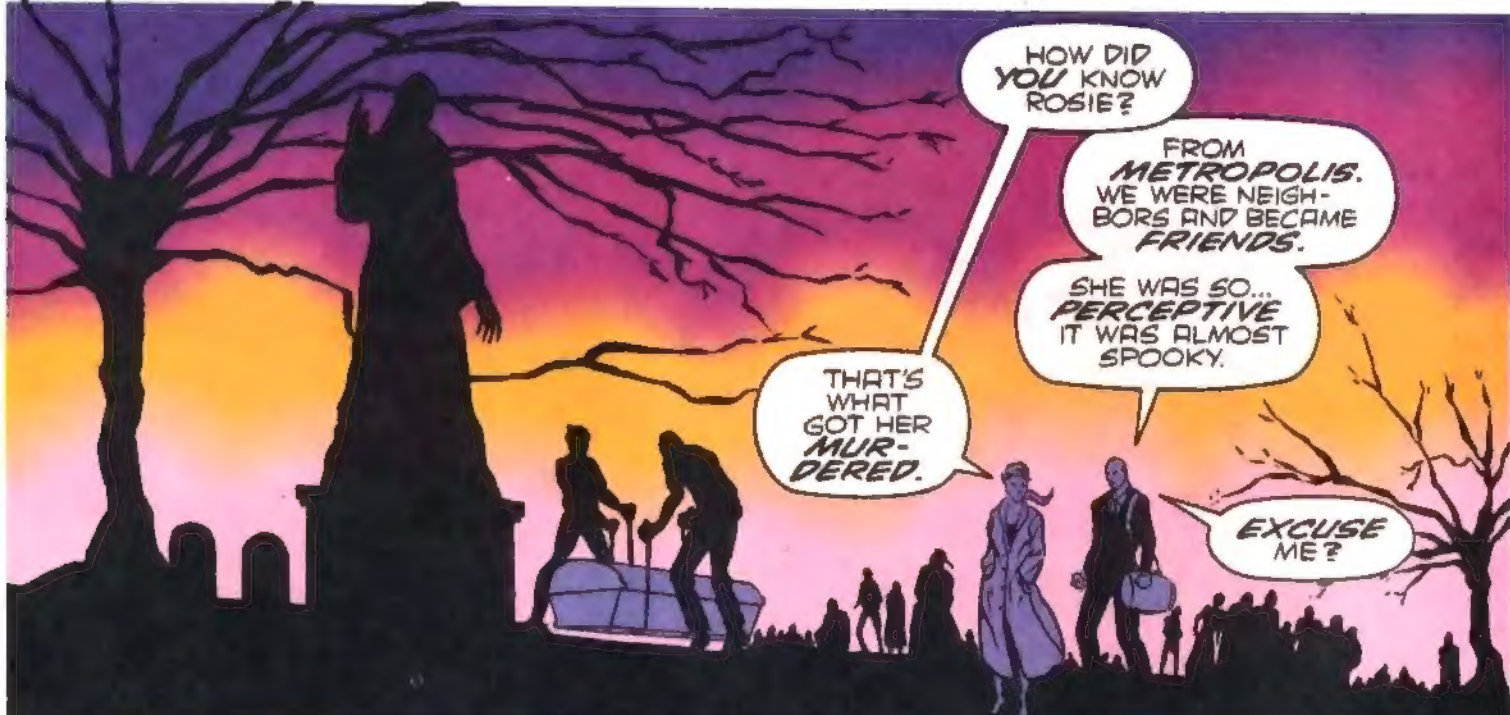
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~ HaCsA ~ nom deplume ~

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HOW DID YOU KNOW ROSIE?

FROM METROPOLIS. WE WERE NEIGHBORS AND BECAME FRIENDS.

SHE WAS SO... PERCEPTIVE IT WAS ALMOST SPOOKY.

THAT'S WHAT GOT HER MURDERED.

EXCUSE ME?



I'M SHAUNA BERYL. I'M ONE OF WASHINGTON'S FINEST.

ROSIE FINGERED OUR SERIAL KILLER.

I WAS... INVOLVED-- ALONG WITH STEEL-- IN THE INVESTIGATION THAT CAUGHT HER MURDERER.

I THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D BE HERE.



THOUGH I GUESS BE- NEATH THE MASK, HE COULD BE ANYONE.

EXCUSE ME. YOU'RE JOHN HENRY IRONS, AREN'T YOU?



I AM.



ROSIE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU NOT TO BLAME YOURSELF FOR HER DEATH.



THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO.

WHO--?

I'M NOT ROSIE'S GHOST. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

I'M HER TWIN SISTER, SUZZIE.

I DID A SEANCE... AND SHE ALWAYS TELLS ME EVERYTHING.

ROSIE'S FINE NOW. IN A BETTER PLACE.

BUT SHE ASKED ME TO WARN YOU...

...THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD. WOMAN TROUBLE.

THANKS.

I... I'LL KEEP THAT IN MI--

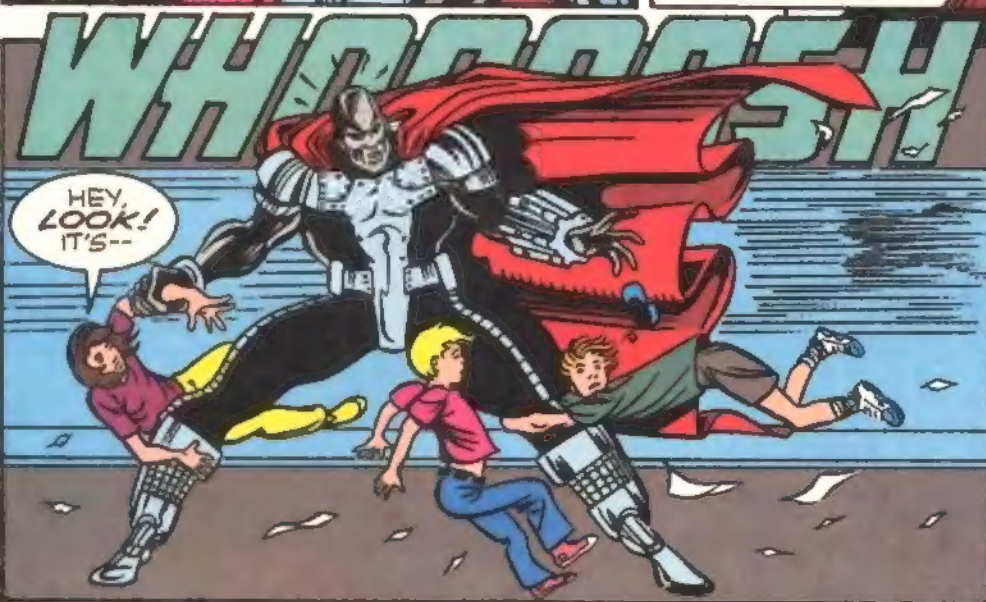
SOUNDED LIKE A BOMB!

SURE DID!

LOOKS LIKE A GAS PIPE EXPLOSION HAS SET SOME BUILDINGS ON FIRE!

HELP!

HELP!



THAT'S
IT?
THEN?

NO ONE
ELSE IS
TRAPPED...
AT LEAST
RIGHT
NOW...

...BUT
THE FIRE
IS SPREAD-
ING.

GET THOSE
PEOPLE *BACK*.
STEEL. *HURRY!*
X-RAY VISION
SUGGESTS...

...THE
BUILDING
BEHIND
US IS ABOUT
TO--

BROOM

--COLLAPSE!

FIREMEN
HAVE
ARRIVED.

BUT EVEN
THEY CAN'T
GET THAT IN-
FERNO UNDER
CONTROL
QUICKLY.

THE
POTOMAC
RIVER
IS NEARBY.

THIS ONE'S
AN OLD
FAVORITE.

IF I WHIRL
QUICKLY
ENOUGH...

I SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO FUNNEL
WATER FROM THE
CHANNEL...

...AND
ONTO THE
BURNING
BUILDINGS.

SPLOOSH!

NOTHING
CAN *SAVE*
THE STRUCTURES,
BUT IT MIGHT
HELP...

"...SAVE THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD."

IT WILL
HAVE TO BE
CONFIRMED
BY INVESTIGA-
TION, OF
COURSE...

...BUT WE
SUSPECT
ARSON. A RUP-
TURED GAS
TANK... OR
MAYBE...

"...A BOMB!"

BA-BOOM

ANOTHER
EXPLOSION...
MAYBE HALF
A MILE
AWAY!

WHAT
THE HECK
IS GOING
ON?!

MILES DUNCAN IS YOUR COUSIN, SENATOR WEAVER? THAT IS SO **AWE-SOME!**

HE'S HERE IN A **TALE OF TWO CITIES**. ISN'T HE?

ALL WE HAVE ON AT HOME IS **PBS** GRANDMA SAYS IT'S **EDUCATIONAL**.

I'VE SEEN HIM IN **DRAMATIC SERIES**. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE DID **MUSICALS**.

A tale Of
Two Cities

MOST KIDS YOUR AGE AREN'T **AWARE** OF **BRITISH ACTORS**...

HAVE YOU **SEEN** IT?

NO. WE HAVE THE **CD** AND I'VE READ THE **PLAY**. BUT THEATER COSTS A **FOR-TUNE--**

HERE!

THANKS. BUT--

I'VE SEEN IT **SEVERAL TIMES**, NATE.

AND I HAVE A **COMMITTEE MEETING** THURSDAY NIGHT, SO I COULDN'T GO ANYWAY.

CONSIDER IT **THANKS** FOR THE GREAT JOB YOU'RE DOING FOR M--

BOOM!

WHAT'S THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. IT **SOUNDED LIKE--**

"...A BOMB!"

WE'RE
NEAR THE
POTOMAC...

...GRAB
THEM, WHILE
I FUNNEL THE
WATER!

THAT'S
THE DEPART-
MENT OF
HOUSING
AND DEVELOP-
MENT!

I KNEW SOME
PEOPLE HAD
PROBLEMS
WITH THE CON-
FLICTING AD-
MINISTRATIONS...

...BUT
I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WOULD GET
THIS *BAD*
MAN, IT'S NOT
WORTH...

"...THE
OVERTIME."

X-RAY
VISION SHOWS
A COUPLE OF
MEN INSIDE...
ON THE THIRD
FLOOR.

A MESS
LIKE THAT
HAS GOT TO
BE *ARSON!*

CAN YOU
SEE WHO OR
WHAT IS
DOING
IT?

NOTHING.
JUST AN... ODD
SMELL IN THE AIR.

IS IT A
POLITICAL
STATEMENT,
LIKE THE MAN
SAID... OR
SOMETHING
ELSE?

WHAT
ELSE CAN
IT-- OVER
THERE!
LOOK!
IT JUST--



"--MATERIALIZED!"

PERFECT!
A MINIA-
TURIZED--

"--BURROWING--"

"--PIPE-
HOMING--"

"--BOMB
SHOULD DO
THE TRICK!"

OH, HOW
I LOVE
TECHNOLOGICAL,
COMPUTERIZED
SPECIALIZA-
TION!

AND
GAS!
WONDERFUL
NATURAL
GAS! THE
PERFECT
MEDIUM

--FOR
THE
TORCH!

BOOM!



WHAT
WAS
IT?

I DON'T
KNOW!
THERE WAS
NOTHING...
INSIDE THE
SUIT!

AND
NOW HE'S
GONE... EN-
GULFED IN
FLAMES!

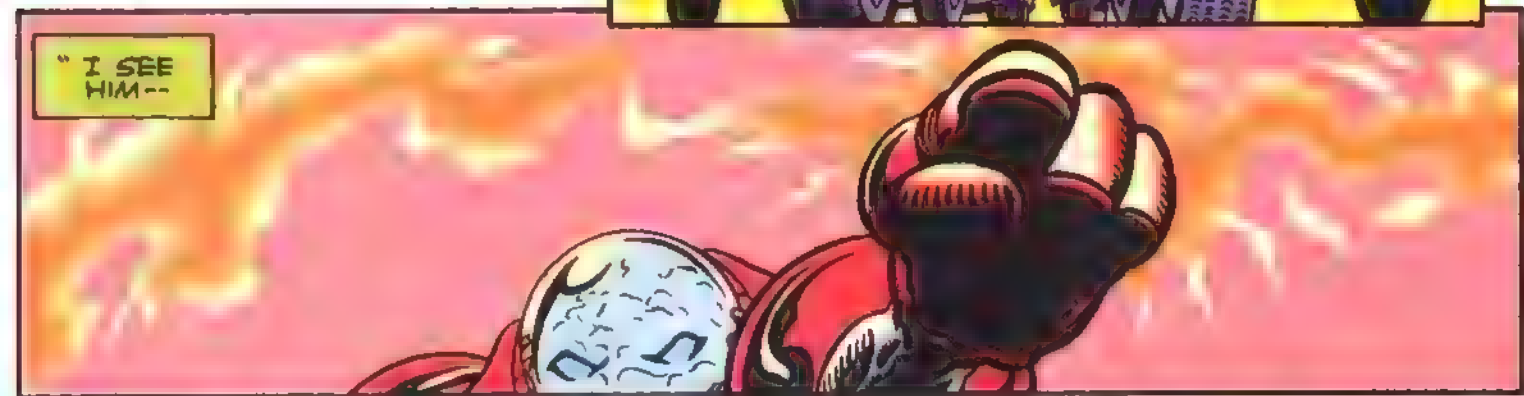
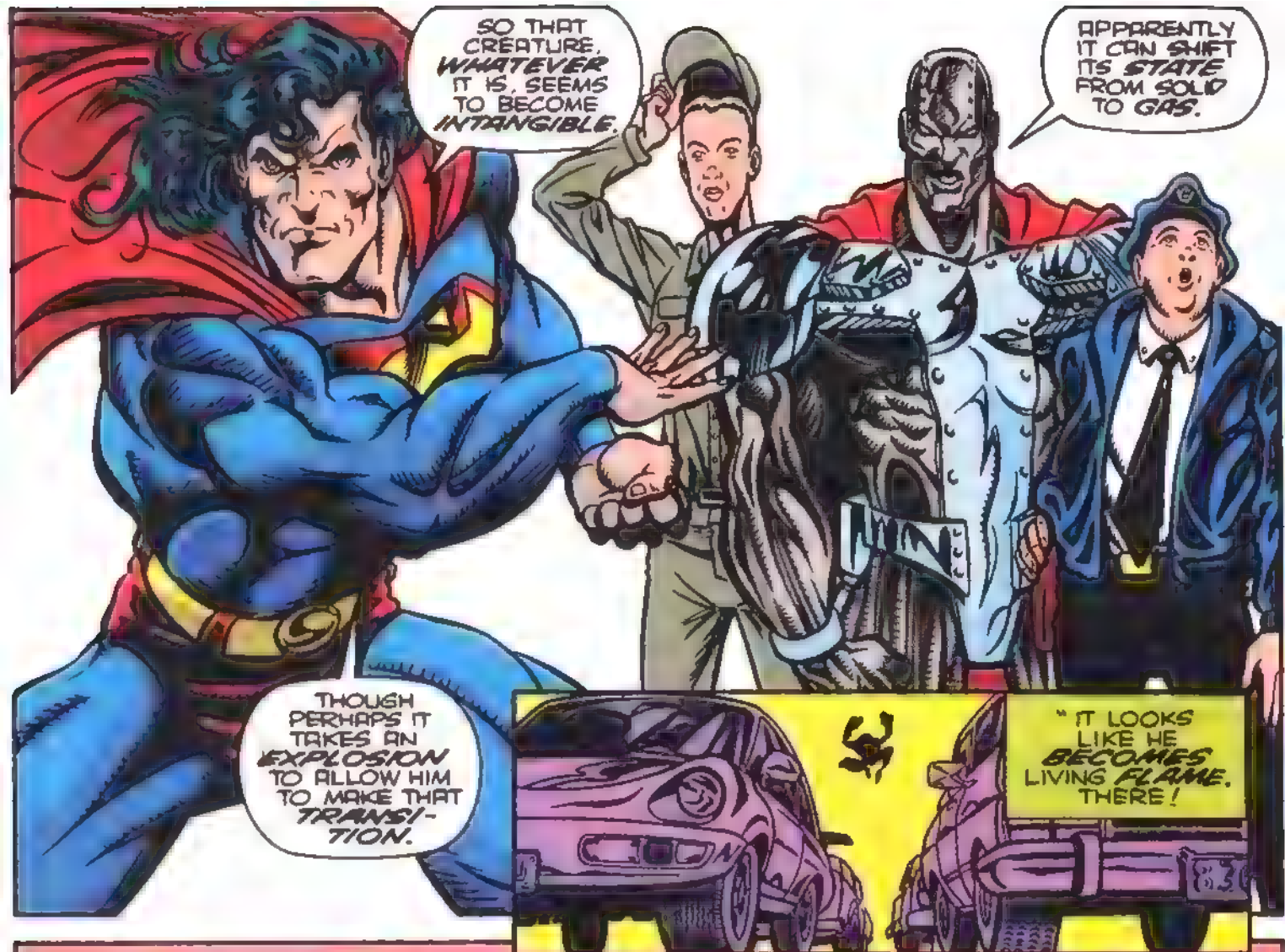
OR ELSE...
HE HAS
BECOME
THE FLAMES!

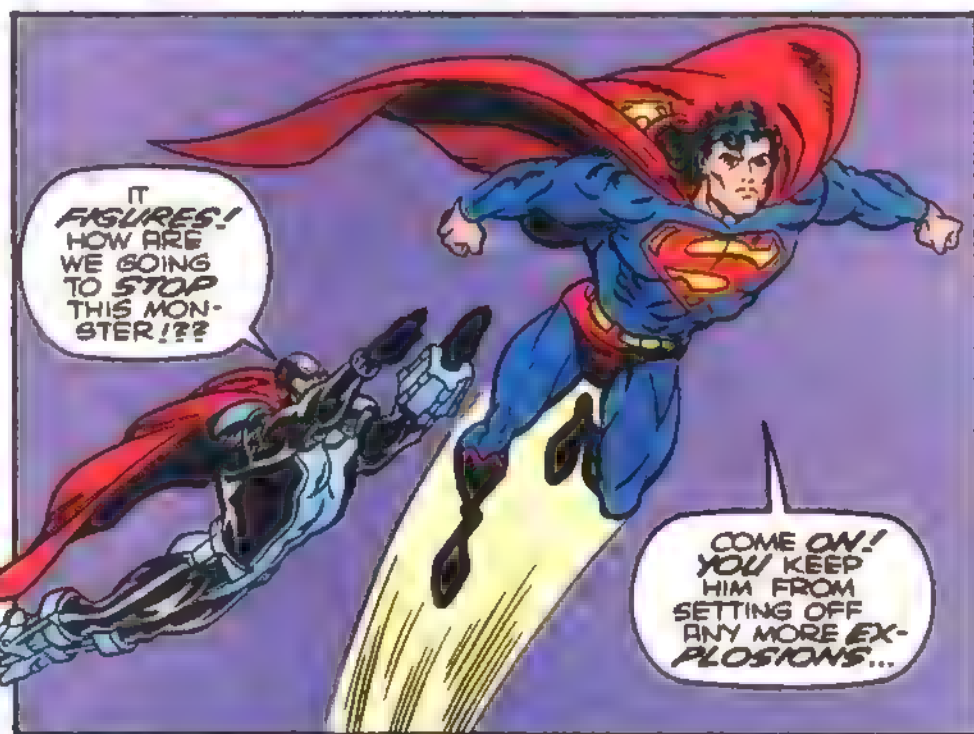
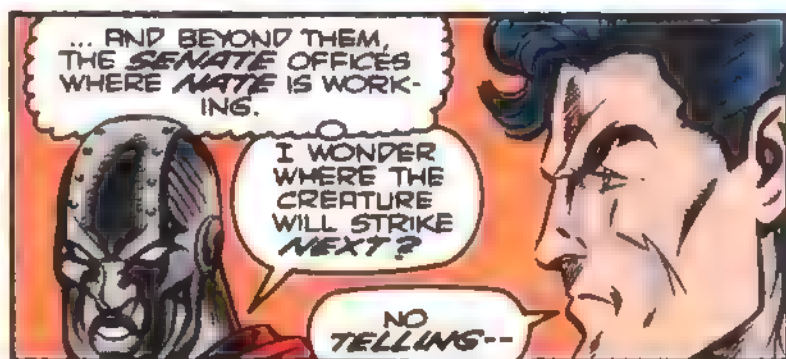
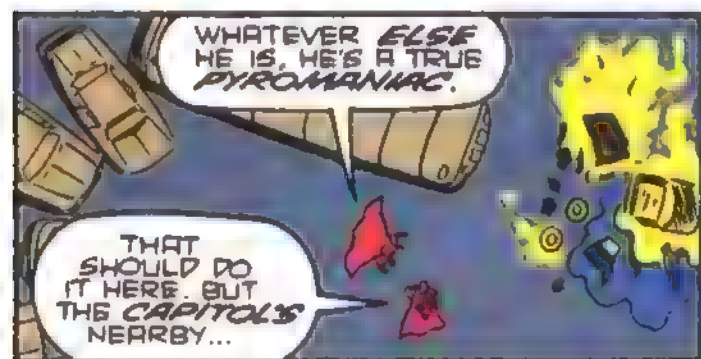
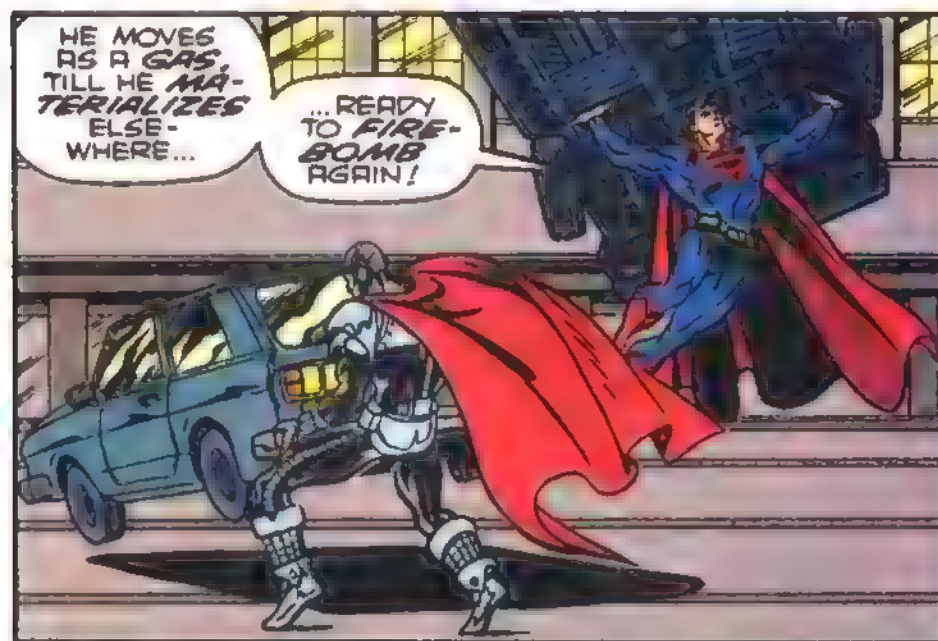
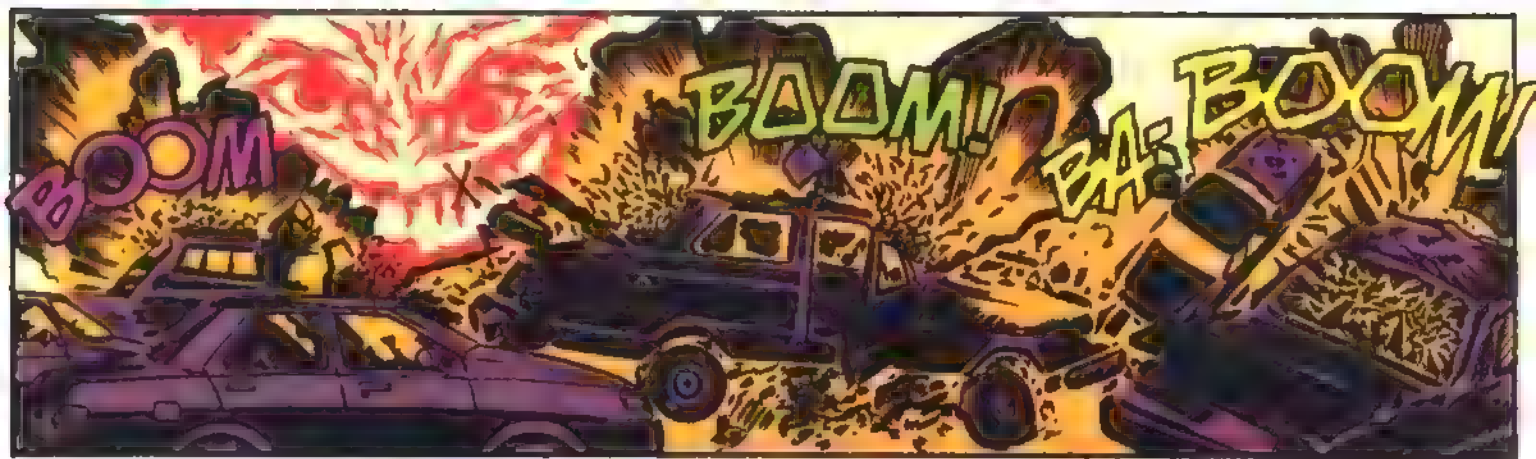
HA
HA

HA
HA

HA
HA

HA
HA





"... AND I'LL
TAKE CARE OF
THE REST."

THERE
HE IS!

GOT
YOU!

I THINK
NOT!

INCREDIBLE
HEAT! EVEN
WITH MY ARMOR...
CLOSE TO BEING
FRIED!

WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU?

NAME'S FIRE-
BOMB... BUT YOU
CAN CALL ME
BOMB!

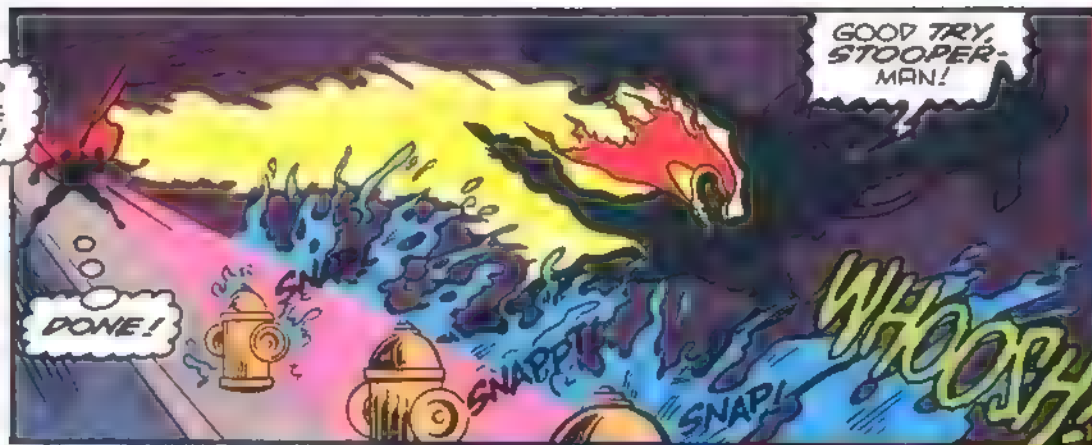
FWOOOOOSH!

SUPERMAN
--NOW!



HEAT
VISION--

-- SHOULD
SHEAR THE
HYDRANTS!



DONE!

GOOD TRY,
STOOPER-
MAN!

WHOOOSH!



BUT
WATER
WON'T SHUT
ME DOWN!
WATER TURNS
TO STEAM AS
IT HITS ME.

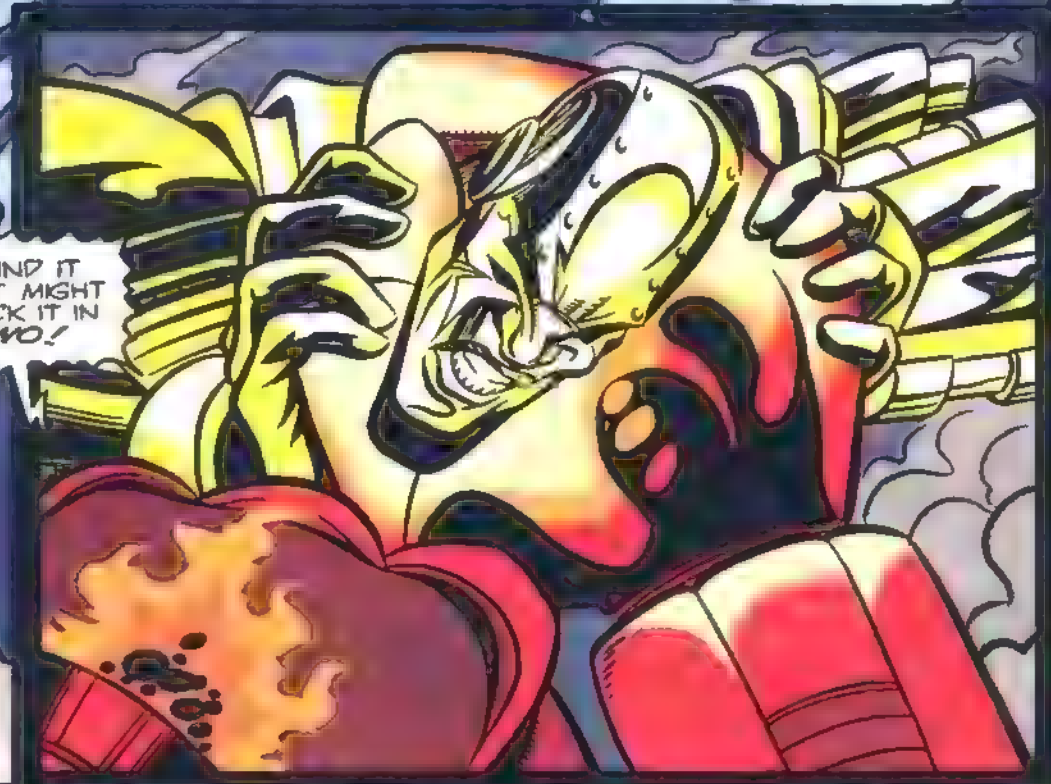
CHANGES
STATE...
SAME AS
ME!

BUT YOU
CAN'T, CAN YOU,
STEEL? TAKE
THIS WHITE HOT
ARMOR...



--AND
SHOVE IT
BENEATH ICY
WATER...

...AND IT
JUST MIGHT
CRACK IT IN
TWO!



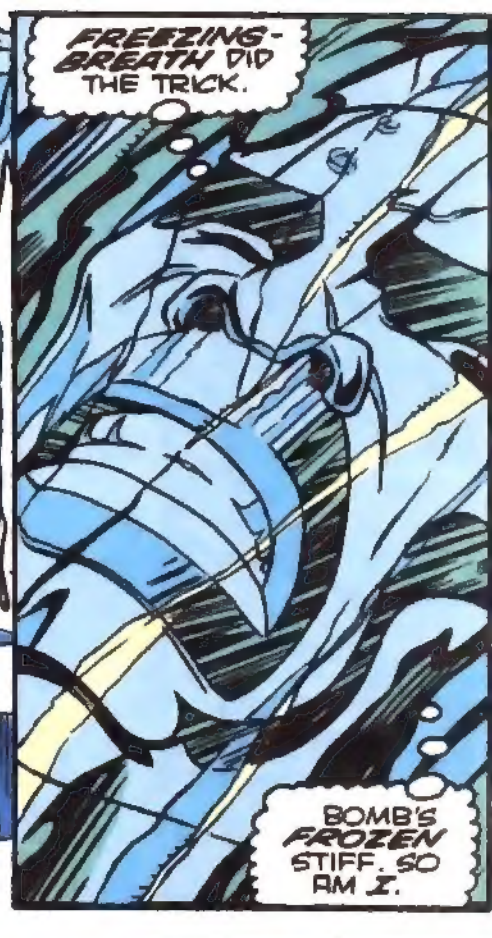


NOT A CHANCE!

HOPE STEEL HAS TEMPERED HIS ARMOR AS WELL AS I THINK HE HAS!

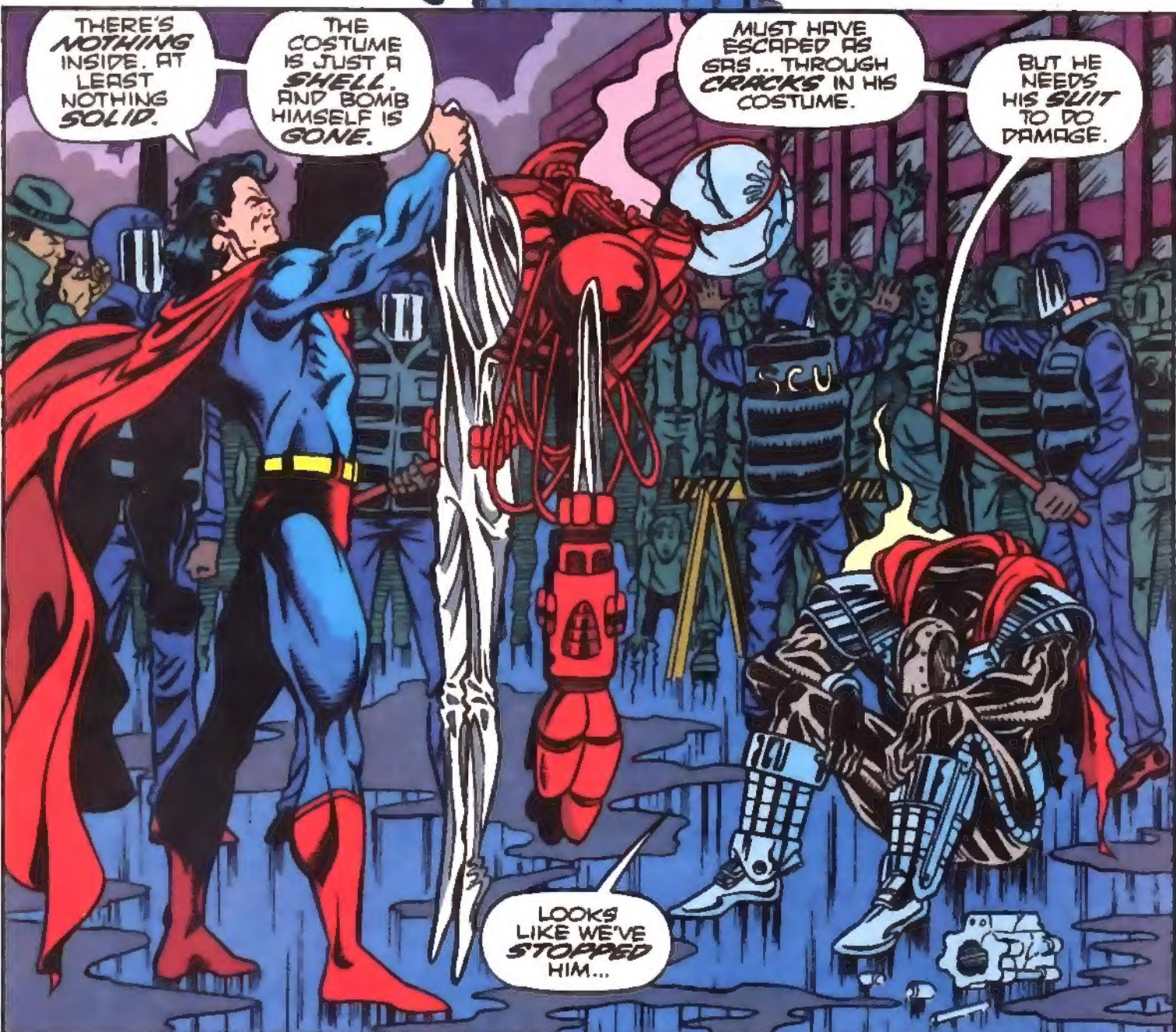


...BECAUSE ICY WATER'S NOTHING COMPARED TO ICE!



FREEZING-BREATH DID THE TRICK.

BOMB'S FROZEN STIFF, SO AM I.



THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE. AT LEAST NOTHING SOLID.

THE COSTUME IS JUST A SHELL, AND BOMB HIMSELF IS GONE.

MUST HAVE ESCAPED AS GAS... THROUGH CRACKS IN HIS COSTUME.

BUT HE NEEDS HIS SUIT TO DO DAMAGE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STOPPED HIM...

"... AT LEAST, FOR NOW."

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BEEF UP THE **FIRE-SHIELD-ING** IN MY ARMOR...

... BE-FORE I TANGLE WITH **BOMB** AGAIN.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE **ALL RIGHT, STEEL?**

I'M A BIT **SINGED**, BUT I'LL BE **FINE**.

THANKS FOR YOUR **HELP**, SUPERMAN. I COULDN'T HAVE **BEATEN** HIM ALONE.

ME, **EITHER**. IT TOOK **BOTH** OF US.

IF YOU EVER NEED ME, GET A MESSAGE TO **CLARK KENT** OR **LOIS LANE** AT THE **DAILY PLANET**.

THEY'LL GET THE WORD TO **ME**.

THANKS. I'LL **RE-MEMBER** THAT.

JOHN HENRY IRONS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE **EMERGENCY ROOM?**

GOT CAUGHT NEAR THE **EXPLOSIONS** LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, **DR.** QUICK.

BUT I'M IN **BETTER SHAPE** THAN A LOT OF THESE **PEOPLE**.

I CAN **SEE** THAT ...



...COME WITH ME.

I HEAR STEEL SAVED THE DAY, AS USUAL.

I HEAR IT WAS SUPER-MAN.



UH-HUH. ODD PATTERN OF BURNS YOU HAVE THERE. ALMOST LIKE --

NEVER MIND. LET ME PATCH YOU UP FIRST AND YOU CAN HELP OUT HERE!



RIGHT NOW, WE CAN USE ALL THE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS WE CAN GET.

THIS MUST BE THE WOMAN TROUBLE I'VE BEEN WARNED ABOUT.



WASHINGTON ISN'T ALWAYS THIS DRAMATICALLY EXCITING, MILES. REALLY.



RIGHT, SO... SINCE YOU'RE ABANDONING ME FOR THE THEATER...

...HOW ABOUT DRINKS AFTERWARDS?

SURE. I THINK IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...



...SINCE YOU'VE ALMOST CONVINCED ME YOU ACCEPTED THAT ROLE...

TAK TAK



...BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO SEE ME.

HOLD ON A SEC... I'M CHECKING MY CALENDER.



COMPUTERIZED ...?

OF COUR--

JANE... JANE, ARE YOU THERE?

